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The Link: A School Library Studies Alumni
Newsletter

Division of School Library Studies

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December 2016

TECHNOLOGY AND THE TL

School Library Studies student **Jennifer Houlette**, along with Southeast Polk teacher librarian **Michelle Hukvari**, shared tricks of the trade at the ITEC conference on October 10. Their presentation “**Beyond the books: Technology and the TL**” highlighted tools they use for promoting literacy, teaching information literacy and supporting staff and students. A teacher

librarian for 63 class sections in three Southeast Polk elementary schools, Houlette discussed the pros and cons of recording her lessons and sharing them with multiple class sections via video. Having personal connections with students is still the most effective and rewarding approach. “It is great to see a twinkle in a student's eye when they figure out a new tech tool or find a website with information and fun activities,” said Houlette.



Jennifer Houlette

SUPPORTING SCHOOL LIBRARIES THROUGH ESSA



As Iowa transitions to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)--which now allows federal education funding to be used for school libraries--teacher librarians around the state are advocating for library programs. IASL successfully organized teacher librarians to speak at Iowa Department of Education ESSA forums in every AEA this fall. They also held an

[ESSA workshop](#) with **Steven Yates**, AASL President-Elect, who has a national perspective on ESSA implementation. Several IASL members (also UNI alumni) and the UNI SLS faculty met with **Ryan Wise**, director of the Iowa Department of Education, and members of his staff on November 30 to provide special interest area leadership. The Iowa DOE is currently developing an ESSA implementation plan which will be posted on its website by January 6 for public comment. Be sure to review this plan and look for language that addresses funding for both school libraries and certified teacher librarians. To learn more about ESSA and how you and other stakeholders can advocate for school libraries, visit AASL's [ESSA advocacy](#) webpage.

TEACHING BOOK TRAILERS



Carrie Foell

At the Iowa Library Association conference on October 13, **Carrie Foell** and **Kenya Arrants** gave a presentation on book trailers which was well attended by librarians from a variety of disciplines. They offered advice on how to find the best book trailers and how to teach students to create book trailers. Their [presentation](#) included sample trailers and lesson outlines for creating professional-quality trailers with iMovie

and Animoto. "I enjoy seeing the students create their own trailer and

seeing how proud they are sharing it with others,” said Foell, a UNI alumna and the teacher librarian at Brookview Elementary School in Waukee. “I like exposing kids to a new way of talking about books,” explained Arrants. She finished her teacher librarian endorsement requirements through UNI and serves as a K-12 teacher librarian for Madrid Community Schools.



Kenya Arrants

BUILDING THE RANKS

Through the ongoing generosity of School Library Studies donors, three graduate students (and new teacher librarians) received scholarships this year.

Elizabeth Pearson, an elementary teacher librarian in Marion, received a scholarship from the Iowa Library Association Foundation. She was inspired to become a librarian after working as an associate alongside a “fantastic” teacher librarian who was skilled at engaging students and getting them excited about reading. She is extremely grateful for the scholarship and said, “It helps ease some of the financial burden and stress on my family and myself, and I can focus more on being a teacher, student, mom and wife.”



Elizabeth Pearson

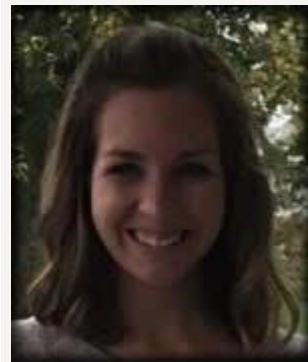


Roxanne Puga

Roxanne Puga received the Rigmor Madsen scholarship through the UNI Foundation. Puga, pictured with her daughter, has been working in schools or youth programs for over 20 years. As the teacher librarian for Fort Madison High School and Lincoln Elementary School, she is helping implement a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) program in which high school students will mentor K-3 students through STEAM and

reading activities. “I really appreciate receiving the Rigmor Madsen Scholarship Award,” she said. “I’ve always been interested in education and especially the teacher librarian profession because I feel that education is the great equalizer in society.”

Shalyn Hughes fell into the library profession when she was interviewing for her first teaching job and was told she would be a perfect fit for another open position—the teacher librarian. She is now in her second year as the teacher librarian at Fillmore Elementary School in Davenport and enjoys building excitement and passion around reading and learning. Hughes is grateful to receive the Mary Lou Kirk scholarship through the UNI Foundation and thankful that she can grow as a professional school librarian.



Shalyn Hughes

The UNI Foundation scholarships are funded by the Rigmor Madsen Scholarship Endowment Fund and Delta Kappa Gamma Tau. If you would like to contribute to UNI scholarships for teacher librarians, contact the UNI Foundation at (800) 782-9522 or [pledge online](#). Your generosity transforms the lives of teachers and students. Thank you!

School Library Studies

The UNI School Library Studies MA program prepares teachers to become K-12 teacher librarians. The program is primarily delivered online. It also features a few on-campus sessions in which students work with their cohort group and develop a network of colleagues throughout Iowa.

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